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CUESTA

SPRING 1977





Provincial
Secretary for
Resources
Development

Parliament Buildings
Queen's Park
Toronto Ontario

Just to bring everyone up to date, when the Niagara Escarpment Commission was formed in late 1973, the administrative responsibility for the Commission rested with the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Inter-governmental Affairs.

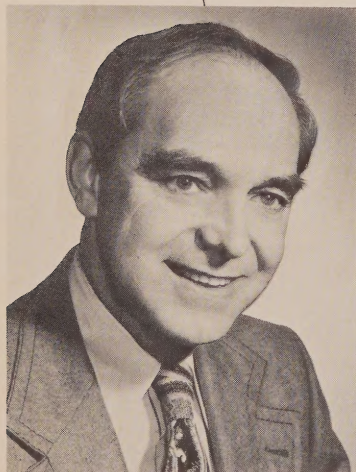
Last spring, this responsibility shifted to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

This change has been made in preparation for the time when the policies being drafted by the Commission will have to be translated into action by the Government. The recommendations of the Commission will require responses from various government ministries, especially those ministries such as Housing, Environment, and Natural Resources, which come under the policy field of the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

The Commission -- with the assistance of two advisory committees -- is close to completion of its preliminary draft plan -- the draft that will be made available to the public and to Escarpment area municipalities for comment before a series of formal hearings are set up to examine the plan in detail.

The Government believes that the Commission's efforts to involve municipal, county and regional governments, various interest groups, and the general public in the planning process will eventually produce a plan that may become a blueprint for environmental planning throughout Canada and perhaps in other countries as well.

Rene Brunelle
Rene Brunelle





Meeting of Niagara Escarpment Commission members.

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From the Chairman

"A New Concept in Planning"

A new concept in planning — created by the recognition of certain priorities — that really is what the Niagara Escarpment Commission is involved with at this moment.

The Commission is in the process of drafting what eventually will be a master land-use plan for an area encompassing 1.3 million acres of some of the most scenic and most productive land in Ontario — stretching from Niagara Falls to Tobermory.

The Commission was formed in late 1973 with the specific mandate to draft a master plan that would preserve the Niagara Escarpment as a "continuous natural environment and to ensure that only such development occurs as is compati-

ble with that natural environment".

This mandate, as far as planning mandates are concerned, is unique. It is entirely different from those which municipalities, regions or even various provincial ministries have in developing their plans.

In 1973, when the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act was passed, there were great development pressures being brought to bear on the Escarpment area, although much of it fortunately remained relatively undeveloped.

Some municipalities in the area had good planning capabilities; others did not.

There was a consensus that the

Escarpment area needed preserving — and for the first time in Ontario, a provincial agency was formed and specifically assigned the task of preserving a continuous natural environment with respect to a geographic location.

In effect — "A New Concept in Planning".

The traditional approach to planning has been to devise means of meeting demand targets; for example, population targets based on past growth trends or recreation targets in terms of providing recreation facilities to meet the growing populations.

The Commission's mandate, however, dictates a somewhat different approach in its planning.

It is being asked to preserve



Commission Chairman Ivor McMullin pointing to one of several hundred maps prepared by the Commission in its background research. Standing (left to right) Terry Priddle, Manager, Plans Preparation; Dianne Marcus, Senior Planner; Gerry Coffin, Executive Director

something — a continuous natural environment.

How do you go about preserving a continuous natural environment? You carry out an inventory and analysis of the situation. To determine what, in fact, exists in the Escarpment area that should be preserved — you carry out an inventory.

That is exactly what the Commission with its staff of planners had to do.

And interestingly enough, part of that inventory included charting exactly where the Escarpment lies. Where the Escarpment soars 300 to 800 feet high, it is not difficult to agree on its location. But, when it goes underground, as it does, that is when tracing the exact Escarpment becomes an intricate process.

Some people have described the Escarpment area as a "rich mosaic of forests, cliffs, hills, waterfalls, scenic views, unusual rock formations, and interesting plant and animal life".

Within the Escarpment area, 72 unusual geological formations, 68 waterfalls, 806 archaeological and historical sites, 169 scenic vantage points, 70 wildlife habitats, and more than 100 special interest types of flowers and plants have been recorded.

The Escarpment also contains the 435-mile long Bruce Trail that attracts thousands of visitors annually from all over Ontario, from other provinces, and from overseas as well.

But essentially, the Escarpment is a massive landform that dates back in geological history some 450-million years. The Escarpment is the outer rim of a depression in the earth's crust that contained a shallow warm lake — the centre of which is now the State of Michigan. What makes this rim so interesting is that along the face of it we can see the massive layers of sedimentary rocks filled with fossils forming a 450-million-year record of life on this planet.

Without a doubt, the Escarpment is one of the natural wonders of the world.

The objectives that the Commission has as a guide in formulating proposals for the master plan are:

- to maintain and enhance the open landscape character of the Escarpment
- to provide adequate public access to the Escarpment
- to protect unique ecologic and historic areas
- to maintain the quality and

character of natural streams and water supplies

- to provide adequate opportunities for outdoor recreation
- to cooperate with and assist municipalities within the Escarpment area in their planning.

Keeping in mind its mandate, the Commission has been attempting to evaluate what resources exist in the Escarpment area and determine what finite capacity these resources have to meet anticipated demands. The result of this approach is that activities will certainly be assigned to land use areas; but it will also be stressed that the land and the environment can only absorb so much use. When this use is exceeded, it is done so at the expense of some other value.

It comes down to priorities.

The Commission, the general public, local governments, and the Provincial Government have to determine exactly what is the best balance — taking into consideration such requirements as residential lot creation, urban growth, recreational facilities, wildlife areas, agriculture, tourism, mineral extraction, etc.

The Commission's philosophy has been to work as closely as possible with municipalities, regions, and counties in drafting the plan.

Over the past several months it has met with almost all of the municipalities within the Escarpment area. The Commission has eight local government representatives on it.

It is anticipated that the completed master plan will be submitted to the government by the end of 1977, once it has passed through the municipal and public approval stages.

The Commission believes that its plan will be in the forefront of a new approach to planning.

The challenge is certainly there.

Ivor McMullin,
Chairman,
Niagara Escarpment Commission

Commission Meets with Public in Series of "Grass Roots" Sessions



Public meeting in Grey County Council chambers, Owen Sound.

Throughout late 1975 and in 1976, the Niagara Escarpment Commission held a series of 18 public meetings throughout the planning area — 800 people attended the 18 meetings.

Commission members also met with municipal councils to provide information on the objectives and activities of the Commission.

Initially, most of the questions from politicians and the public were related to the Commission's development control regulations

which came into effect in June, 1975.

In mid-1976 as area property owners became more familiar with development control, the public meetings began to deal more with the Commission's preparation of a master land-use plan and the issues involved in planning for the Escarpment area.

Prior to the formal public hearing process on the draft plan as required by Bill 129, the Commission is planning to continue its informal

workshop sessions throughout the Escarpment area.

During these sessions, the first draft of the Master Plan will be discussed in detail and the public will be asked for comment. This will allow people to really examine the plan, to discuss it with the Commission members and its planners and to give serious consideration to the outcome of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's master land-use plan.

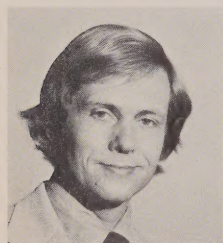
Niagara Escarpment Commission Members



J. Ivor McMullin is the Chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. He was appointed to this position in December, 1975 by Premier William Davis.

Prior to being appointed Chairman of the Commission, Mr. McMullin was Mayor of the Town of Caledon. He is a former Reeve of Albion Township, former Warden of Peel County and is a life member of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Mr. McMullin lives in Caledon East where he has operated a beef farm and still retains a number of cattle. He is married and has two sons.



Robert Bateman



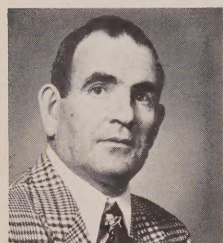
John Boeckh



Leo Bruzesse



Ivan Buchanan



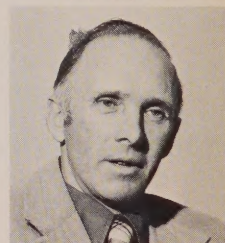
Edgar Currie



Paul Gallagher



Gary Harron



J. P. Johnstone



Robert Keast



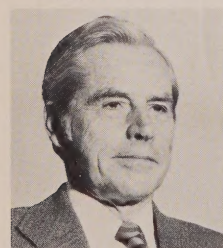
Raymond Lowes



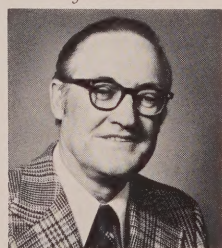
Anne MacArthur



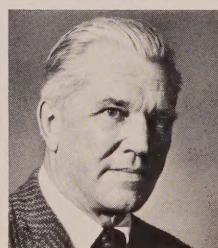
Robert Mackey



Robert McNairn



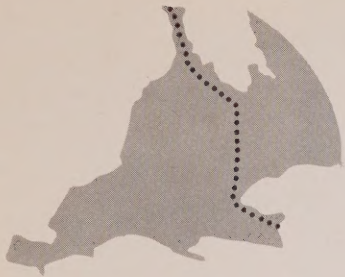
Alex Raeburn



Lee Symmes



Roy Booth



CUESTA — Originally a Spanish term meaning flank or slope of a hill, in geological terms means a ridge composed of gently dipping rock strata with a long gradual slope on one side, and a relatively steep Scarp on the other.

This is the second issue of Cuesta.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ivor McMullin, Chairman

Representing County and Regional Municipalities

Bruce:	Jack Johnstone
Grey:	Robert W. Mackey
Simcoe:	Edgar Currie
Dufferin:	Paul Gallagher
Peel:	Alex Raeburn
Hamilton-Wentworth	Robert McNairn
Halton:	Roy Booth
Niagara:	Ivan Buchanan

Representing the Public At Large

Robert Bateman, Rockwood
John Boeckh, Alton
Lee Symmes, Terra Cotta
Leo Bruzzese, Pelham
Gary Harron, Allenford
Robert Keast, Thornbury
Raymond Lowes, Hamilton
Mrs. Anne MacArthur, Milton

STAFF MEMBERS

Executive Director:	Gerald Coffin
Manager, Plan Preparation	Terence Priddle
Manager, Development Control	Cecil Louis
Manager, Administration Services	Peter Branch
Executive Secretary,	
Advisory Committees	Walter Gowing
Information Officer	Carolyn Jameson

Photo Credits:

Back cover and centre pages courtesy of Dofasco Illustrated News, Hamilton.

Commission Members,
Adams Photography, Georgetown.
All Others, NEC staff.

Front cover: Eugenia Falls, near Kimberley
Back cover: Webster's Falls, near Dundas

"GIANT'S RIB"

The film by the Niagara Escarpment Commission entitled "Giant's Rib" was produced by Canadian film maker David Mackay Limited.

It is a portrait of the Escarpment from Niagara Falls to Tobermory. Dramatic aerial photography of the Escarpment is combined with breathtaking shots of physical

features; agricultural activities; quarries; recreational activities (summer and winter); flora and fauna; housing; and many other aspects of this magnificent landform.

The producers interviewed landowners within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area, interested citizens, developers, pit and quarry operators and a host of indi-

viduals with a specific interest in the Escarpment. Their points of view on the various issues involved in the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment form part of the narration of the film.

The film is available for public showing and can be obtained by contacting your nearest Niagara Escarpment Commission office.

Niagara Escarpment Commission,
232 Guelph Street,
Georgetown, Ontario.
L7G 4B1
Tel. 416-877-5191

Niagara Escarpment Commission,
11-13 Marsh Street,
Clarksburg, Ontario.
Tel. 519-599-3340

Niagara Escarpment Commission,
166 Main Street West,
Grimsby, Ontario.
Tel. 416-945-9235

Land-Use Policies

The Problems and Issues



Escarpment, Colpoy Bay

The policies that have been drafted by the 17-member Niagara Escarpment Commission, if adopted, will form the basis of the Master Plan when it is completed in late 1977 or early 1978.

The policies will outline the priorities contained in each identified land-use category on the 1.3-million-acre Niagara Escarpment Planning Area.

The Planning Area extends in length from Niagara Falls to Tobermory, 465 miles, and includes parts of 55 municipalities, 4 counties and 4 regions.

The policies that have been formulated by the planners and ap-

proved by the Commission over the past several months, cover six major groupings, subdivided into 22 specific policy headings. These are now being critically examined by the advisory committees.

The plan will assign land-uses and recommend methods for maintaining and enhancing the open landscape character of the Escarpment as a continuous natural environment. Policy categories range from environmentally significant features such as the physical scarp, to mineral resources and regulation of gravel pits and mineral extraction in the Escarpment area.

Policies are also being drafted for regulation of development in particularly sensitive areas; scenic drives; public land acquisition; preservation of lakeshore areas; forestry; fish and wildlife habitats; park and recreation areas; the Bruce Trail; historic and archaeological sites; nature reserves; agricultural lands; general rural development; major and minor urban centres; and natural streams and water supplies.

The Commission's first task was to survey all the current land-uses within its 2,000 square-mile planning area. Then using an overlay-sieve technique Commission plan-

ners examined alternative uses for the land.

For example, identified agricultural lands could in some instances also be suitable for forestry, mineral extraction, wildlife habitats or urban expansion.

The Commission's main approach to planning and policy development is to limit use of sensitive areas so they can be enjoyed without being destroyed by overuse. Most areas requiring specific protection are associated with steep slopes, ravines, wooded areas, marshes and lakes.

Because of its limestone formation the Escarpment provides habitats for unique flora. There are other areas where with suitable management techniques wildlife might be re-established.

Central to the planning area is the Escarpment, forming a unique geological history of how the land base for most of Southern Ontario was formed over the past 400-500 million years.

The issues facing the Commission are many and complex.

Aggregate and Mineral Extraction

The Escarpment area is a major source of stone and gravel providing about 40% of Ontario's aggregate requirements. At the same time the Escarpment is Ontario's most scenic natural resource.

One of the major decisions to be made is: to what extent and under what conditions can minerals be extracted while still preserving the integrity of the natural environment?

Public Acquisition of 'Passive' Recreational Lands

The Escarpment lends itself to such recreational activities as hiking, fishing, picnicking, and cross-country skiing.

These are considered 'passive' recreational activities as opposed to 'active' recreational activities such as downhill skiing, complete with lodges, tows, etc.

Because 'passive' recreation is seldom profitable it often requires public ownership. As the population grows, the demands will increase and a system has to be



Rehabilitation of Nelson Quarry, North Burlington



Flower Pot Island, near Tobermory.

devised for setting aside land and implementing long-range acquisition programmes. The problem is to ensure that land does not get developed and built upon before its capacity for recreational use is required.

Natural and Cultural

The Niagara Escarpment Planning Area contains hundreds of natural and cultural features, stemming from its geological origins, the plant and animal habitats, and the role it has played in the historical development of Ontario.

In Grey County alone the Commission has identified 39 Indian burial grounds and camp sites, 45 unique geological features and 66 sites where special consideration should be given to flora and fauna.

The problem to be solved is: what protective policies should be considered in the Niagara Escarpment Plan for the locations that will remain under private ownership?

Some of the issues to be resolved are:

- is it reasonable to require owners of these areas to seek approval from a government agency be-

fore altering any of these areas?

- is it desirable to have a system of compensation where an owner undertakes to preserve and maintain lands containing important features?
- is the Provincial Government prepared to accept ongoing supervision of these areas, or is this best left to the municipalities, counties or regions?

Agriculture

One of the stated objectives of the plan, according to legislation, is "to maintain and enhance the open landscape character of the Niagara Escarpment insofar as possible by such means as compatible farming or forestry and by preserving the natural scenery".

The development of agricultural land, especially the prime tender lands of the Niagara Peninsula, is an issue that has been subject to extensive debate. There is, however, the larger question of preservation of all good agricultural land in Ontario.

If policies are developed for preserving agricultural land, clearly it means that urban development will have to be curtailed. This

would require major policy decisions at the highest level.

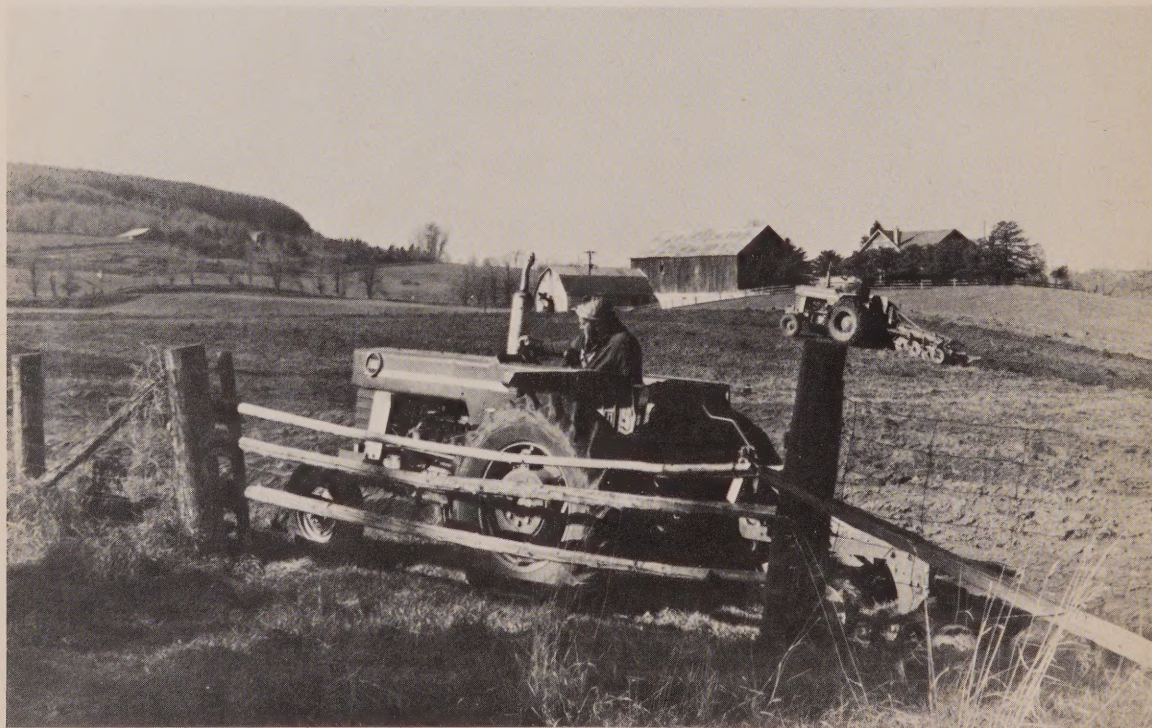
As part of its mandate the Commission has undertaken to secure an optimum route for the 435-mile long Bruce Trail which meanders along much of the Escarpment.

Some 211 miles (48%) of the Trail are now on private lands; 122 (28%) on roads; 13 (3%) on Indian reserves; and the remaining 89 (21%) on public lands.

Once the optimum route for the Trail has been selected, some means have to be found to provide public access, while at the same time preserving the values and rights of private landowners along the Trail. Many possibilities are being examined.

A system of scenic drives is being considered for those who wish to enjoy the scenic views and routes but who are unable to take the pedestrian route.

The Commission's initial recommendations will appear in the draft plan proposals in the spring. That is when the general public will have its say directly in the public workshops and in the formal hearings that follow.



Farming near Credit Fork — Devil's Pulpit in the background.

The Geological History of the Dundas Valley

by W. Harvey McNairn, Ph.D.

(reprinted from original article written in 1947)

The beauty we admire in any landscape, depends upon the variety of the features that combine to form a single picture to the eye of the observer. This is the main secret of the surpassing loveliness of the British Isles, and this is why the Valley of Dundas is one of the most charming spots in all Ontario.

There is no monotony in this landscape. On the north and south are seen the vertical edges of a great limestone plateau. Here and there the rocky walls are intersected by narrow, winding canyons, each ending in a beautiful waterfall. To the east, the land slopes gently into the tree-bordered marsh. Beyond this is the harbour, and then the blue freshwater sea.

It is one of the objects of Geology to explain how the features of the landscape were produced, and here we find the records of two interesting chapters in the history of the Earth. First, the limestones tell us of a great inland sea, stretching northwesterly from the far-off Atlantic coast, for it is only in salt water that these rocks are formed. Then, about 300 million years ago, at the close of the Silurian Period, a rise of the continent drained the inland sea, and ever since, this area has remained dry land.

It was after this upheaval that the valley was formed. Dr. Joseph Spencer, a native son of Dundas, and an eminent geologist, has told us how it happened. A great stream, which he called the Ergan River, flowing from the west, cut a deep watercourse. Though the mighty river has degenerated into a mere creek, its valley still remains.

More than 200 million centuries passed before the second chapter opened with the advent of the Great Ice Age. The slow but irresistible advance of miles-deep glaciers then plowed over the land, showing mountainous heaps of



Webster's Falls, Dundas.

clay and sand and gravel before them. Remains of this debris form the low hills in the western portion of the valley.

Towards the end of this period, the ice began to retreat, but for a long time a great arm of the glacier blocked the channel of the upper St. Lawrence River. This dammed the flow of water from the melting ice, and a great lake, which geologists have named Lake Iroquois, was formed. Though its level was much higher, it resembled Lake Ontario in some respects. It ended, as now, in a triangular bay towards which a current moved along the northern shore. As it reached the mouth of the bay, the current was deflected southwards. Then from the sand and gravel it carried, it

built up a bay bar, which still remains as the ridge at the foot of the marsh.

Finally, the ice-dam moved away, leaving a wide channel to the ocean. The lake level fell, and the ancient bay was drained but it was replaced by a new one which is the present harbour. Then a new bay bar was formed and we now have Hamilton Beach. The bottom of the valley then stood at the present level of Hamilton Hill, and the creek, then larger than at present, commenced a new period of excavation. The new level plain was the site selected by the Pioneers for the founding of a settlement, which has now developed into the beautiful and happy Town of Dundas.

Escarpment Beauty





- 1 Spring flowers
- 2 Cliffs and crystal waters along the Bruce Peninsula
- 3 Canoeing on the Escarpment waterways
- 4 Segment of the Bruce Trail
- 5 Sir Isaac Brock monument, Queenston Heights
- 6 Bruce Trail cairn at Tobermory
- 7 Hikers in Beaver Valley
- 8 Pioneer mill at DeCew's Falls
- 9 Sparkling rapids along the Escarpment
- 10 Spring foliage

Development Control

Interim Land-Use Control along the Escarpment's 'Sensitive' Zone

In addition to working on a Master Plan, since June, 1975 the Niagara Escarpment Commission has been responsible for applying development control regulations along the sensitive Escarpment corridor.

Development control, as it applies to the Niagara Escarpment area, is an interim system to regulate land-use until the master plan is completed. It is **not** a 'freeze' on development.

When the Commission was formed the government realized that it would take some years before a master plan could be prepared, examined, and commented upon by local governments, examined at public hearings, adopted as government policy, and finally, implemented.

While all this was going on, it was obvious that some form of control was needed to protect the Escarpment area, particularly the very sensitive Escarpment corridor. Rather than merely 'freeze' development, it was decided to initiate a system that would **regulate** development while the master plan was being prepared. The system adopted was development control in which each proposed development is considered on its own merits and evaluated against a set of approved guidelines.

Generally, a development permit is required by anyone wishing to erect a house, cottage, industrial or commercial building, construct a road, remove top soil, establish a trailer park, or open a wayside pit.

Any "special agricultural development" such as piggery, feed lot, turkey, game bird or chicken farm, would also require a development permit.

In this process, development in the most sensitive area of the Escarpment, a central corridor taking up about 40% of the total planning area, requires a development permit from the Commission.

The process of creating lots remains the responsibility of the Land Division Committees or Committees of Adjustment and the Commission is only involved to the extent that it provides comments to these bodies on request.

Similarly, plans for subdivision are still administered directly by the Minister of Housing who circu-

lates applications for review and comment by the Commission.

While the local zoning by-laws in effect have been suspended, the provisions of the official plans are still in place. In dealing with individual applications, the Commission gives consideration to local official plans and also to comments received from the local municipality.

Also, the fact that severances and subdivisions are being created must be recognized. Usually subdivisions are exempted from the provisions of development control once they have finally been approved by the Minister, with conditions which the Commission may have recommended.

Development control has been in force since June, 1975 and since that time the Commission has dealt with about 1800 development permit applications. About 84 percent of the applications have been approved. These approvals are subject to conditions concerning house location, grading of the lot, landscaping, tree planting and removal, etc.

The Commission's principal difficulty in exercising development control and in commenting on planning issues, has been the lack of a master plan and hence sufficiently detailed guidelines on which to base decisions. However, the Commission has been conscious of the need to avoid a de-

velopment freeze and has made interim decisions which, hopefully, will not prejudice the outcome of the plan. If a development permit is not approved, this means that the decision on land-use is being deferred until the Master Plan is produced.

This type of control is flexible, permitting resolution of many issues not dealt with in normal zoning. And decisions can be made more rapidly than if zoning changes were required.

Whether or not development control will be continued in any form after the Niagara Escarpment plan is produced will be decided as part of the plan.

Insight:
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
Planning & Development Act, 1973

Niagara Escarpment Commission

Ontario

Niagara Escarpment Commission

FORM 1
APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1973

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT IN INK AND SEND TO THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION AT THE OFFICE ASSIGNED TO SERVE YOUR COUNTY OR REGION.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION 166 Main Street West GRIMSBY, Ontario L3M 1S3 Tel: (416) 945-9235 Long Distance - Call Collect Regional Municipality of Hamilton/Wentworth Regional Municipality of Niagara	NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION 232 Guelph Street GEORGETOWN, Ontario L7G 4B1 Tel: (416) 877-5191 Long Distance - Call Collect County of Dufferin Regional Municipality of Halton Regional Municipality of Peel	NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION P.O. Box 9 CLARKSBURG, Ontario N0H 1J0 Tel: (519) 599-3340 Long Distance - Call Collect County of Bruce County of Simcoe County of Grey
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ONE APPLICATION FORM MAY RELATE TO MORE THAN ONE SITE, (AS ON A PLAN OF SUBDIVISION).
IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COMMISSION OFFICE.

When completing this Application for a Development Permit, please ensure that all the specifications of the proposed development are accurate. Otherwise, if the Niagara Escarpment Commission approves of your Application as submitted without varying the specifications contained within, the proposed development will then have to take place in accordance with the specifications disclosed in this Application.

1. APPLICANT
NAME _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____ Tel No _____

2. AGENT (IF ANY) TO WHOM CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT
NAME _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____ Tel No _____

The Escarpment — An Historical Treasure House



Cave entrance at Hope Bay Cove, Bruce Peninsula.

Most people in Ontario and Canada think of prehistoric archaeological discoveries as happening "somewhere else". Yet, there have been prehistoric remains found near Alliston in the vicinity of one of the passes through the Niagara Escarpment which date back to 15,000 B.C. the time when man first appeared in North America.

The reason, according to archaeologists, is that the Alliston area marks the southernmost shore of ancient Lake Algonquin, an enormous body of water which covered Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and the Muskokas. Near Alliston the water was shallow enough

to permit large animals to cross and therefore, it is rich in campsites abandoned by pursuing hunters. But, to the early peoples of the Niagara Escarpment, it afforded more than a rich hunting ground.

The Escarpment, was used for protection purposes. It served as a definite boundary line and provided a vista from which the Tobacco Indians west of Collingwood could guard their territory.

Their capital village was just below the Scenic Caves. Their tobacco fields were on the flat tableland because it was a middle elevation and was not affected by early frosts as were the lands higher up or lower down. The Escarpment

contained water, flora and fauna. It was generally a rich area.

Man first set foot on the North American continent almost 20,000 years ago, at the end of the Pleistocene ice age. He hunted the huge prehistoric animals which roamed the land and made his kills with stone weapons shaped by chipping and flaking. Evidences of his earliest culture, the Clovis, have been found in the Alliston area. It is thought that similar sites may be located in some of the other passes through the Escarpment.

A quartzite quarry used by Stone Age man has been discovered on Manitoulin Island at Shequindah and possibilities exist for more in



Log cabin and lime kiln, Balls Falls Conservation Area, near Beamsville.

the Blue Mountains near Collingwood.

About 7,000 years ago, the climate of southern Ontario became warmer and dryer. The spruce and fir forests gave way to pine and the day of the large animals drew to a close. The Archaic period began.

The Archaic hunters were nomadic. No evidence of their campsites has been found because Ontario was their summer hunting grounds and it is assumed that their warm weather shelters were temporary, flimsy affairs. However, they possessed knives, fish hooks and advanced woodworking equipment. In contrast to the rough-finish of earlier cultures, Archaic man's tools were smoothed and ground.

The Archaic period was followed by the Early and Terminal Woodland periods which saw the people of the Escarpment area developing agriculture, firing pottery, smoking pipes and evolving a religious life and philosophy. Gradually, a stable culture emerged dependent on agriculture, hunting and fishing. The people lived in large,

palisaded villages covering up to ten acres.

During the Woodland periods, cultural diversity occurred with the Huron tribes occupying the territory between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay, the unallied Neutrals in southern and southwestern Ontario, the Five Nations Iroquois in New York and the Ojibways on the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

Enter the white man; first as missionary and fur trader, then as settler and displacer of the Indian. With him came smallpox, as effective as war in reducing the Huron and Neutral Indian population.

What smallpox did not do, the increasing tension and eventual wars between the Hurons and Iroquois over the lucrative fur trade, did. The Indian farms were abandoned and reverted to wilderness, the erstwhile farmers becoming almost dependent on the white man for tools, equipment and food. The old Indian societies disintegrated, victims of intermarriage, tribal war, and the need to band together for protection.

From 1650 to 1780, southern Ontario was largely uninhabited.

A few Iroquois trappers worked the territory and Ojibway and Mississauga families drifted in from the north. Colonization began in earnest however, with the arrival of the first Loyalists from the United States, encouraged and enticed by land grants, rations and equipment as compensation for losses incurred by their loyalty to the Crown.

Niagara-on-the-Lake became the first capital of Upper Canada only to be superseded by Toronto when the seat of government was removed from under the covetous eyes of the Americans.

The War of 1812, the Fenian raids and the development of industry based on the readily available water power of the Escarpment, have all left their mark in the form of late 18th and early 19th Century architecture, old saw and grist mills and battlefields.

Thus far, 260 archaeological and 546 historical sites and buildings have been identified and it is an accepted fact that the Escarpment area is significant from an archaeological and historical standpoint.

Advisory Committees Assist in Draft Plan Policies



Meeting of Niagara Escarpment Interest Group, Advisory Committee.

The master land-use plan to preserve the Niagara Escarpment as a "continuous natural environment" came one step closer to reality with the recent appointment of two advisory committees to work with the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

The job of the advisory committees, made up of municipal politicians and planners and representatives from various interest groups, is to work in parallel with the Commission in preparing a preliminary draft plan for public scrutiny in 1977.

After the public and the 55 Escarpment municipalities examine and comment on the draft plan, the Commission will make whatever changes it considers necessary. The plan will be examined at a formal series of public hearings, redrafted if necessary after the hearings, and the final master plan will be submitted to the Government by the end of 1977 or early 1978.

At the inaugural meeting of the advisory committees in Queen's Park in September, 1976, the Pro-

vincial Secretary for Resources Development advised the members that their input was being sought earlier than originally planned to work with the Commission in preparing a preliminary draft plan for public discussion.

He said the original Escarpment planning legislation called for establishing advisory committees to study a draft plan and return it to the Commission with recommendations.

But, as plans, even in their draft form, tend to imply that decisions have been made, it was decided to involve the advisory committees at an earlier stage.

The two advisory committees working in parallel with the Niagara Escarpment Commission consist of 19 municipal representatives and planners who serve on the Regional and County Advisory Committee and 13 representatives from various interest groups who serve on the Interest Groups Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee Members

Members appointed to the Niagara Escarpment Regional and County Advisory Committee are:

- Regional Municipality of Niagara
Chairman John E. Campbell
Planning Director Alan Veale
- Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth
Chairman Mrs. Anne Jones
Planning Commissioner Douglas Lychak
- Regional Municipality of Halton
Chairman R. B. Morrow
Regional Planning Director Edward R. Cumming
- Regional Municipality of Peel
Chairman Louis H. Parsons
Planning Commissioner Peter E. Allan
- County of Dufferin
Warden Gordon Oldfield
Chairman, Land Division Committee
Connie Broderick
- County of Simcoe
Warden Orville Hughes
Associate Agricultural Representative
William Cooper
- County of Grey
Warden Lorne Lemon
West Grey Planning Director Robert List
East Grey Planning Director Ross Arthur
- City of Owen Sound
Mayor R. E. Rutherford
Planning Director J. Kent Murray
- County of Bruce
Reeve of Lindsay Township Milton Hayes
Planning Director, Bruce Peninsula Planning Board
Donald Scott

Mr. Louis Parsons is the Chairman of the Regional and County Advisory Committee.

Members appointed to the Niagara Escarpment Interest Groups Advisory Committee are:

- Warren Wiley, St. Catharines, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- J. L. Caylor, Toronto, Aggregate Producers' Association of Ontario
- William Powell, Ancaster, Chairman's Committee, Conservation Authorities of Ontario
- Professor Richard R. Forster, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Guelph
- Professor Kirk Wipper, Toronto, Ontario Camping Association
- Lloyd Thomson, Orangeville, Niagara and Mid-Western Ontario Travel Association
- Douglas McLay, Stokes Bay, Georgian-Lakelands Travel Association
- Mrs. Hilde Morden, New Hamburg, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario
- Eric Kennedy, Islington, The Bruce Trail Association
- George Martin, St. Catharines, The Urban Development Institute
- William Bell, London, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Inc.
- James Ott, Cambridge, Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations.
- Howard Awrey, Hillsburgh, Ontario Real Estate Association.

Mr. William Powell is the Chairman of the Interest Groups Advisory Committee.

Students' Recommendations from 3-Month Study

Cameron Street Elementary School

Niagara Escarpment Programme

On April 7, 1976 staff and students of Cameron Street Elementary School undertook a 3-month study of the Niagara Escarpment in the Collingwood area.

On the evening of April 7, members and staff of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, school staff, members of the press, and parents of the students participated in a meeting to launch the programme. Slides were shown and a display was set up including a large map of the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area. The following day Commission members and staff met with the students to discuss the project and answer questions.

Throughout the 3-month period, students were assisted by resource people from the community, Commission planners, staff from the Ministries of Agriculture and Food and Natural Resources. To-

pics included covered flora and fauna, local history, early survey techniques, the need for planning, the present agricultural trends, and the uses of aggregate taken from the Escarpment.

The students went out on several hikes with on-hike assignment sheets to draw attention to specific observations that were required.

On June 17, 1976 a wind-up meeting was held to present the students' findings and recommendations to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Members and staff from the Commission, staff and students from the school, parents of the students, members of the Simcoe County Board of Education, and members of the press, attended the meeting. The Vice-Principal gave a slide presentation of the material that had been gathered in the study period. The Niagara Escarpment

Commission film "Giant's Rib" was shown and a scale model of the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area was on hand to illustrate the total area and enable the students and parents to identify specific areas of interest. Students' field samples that had been collected were on display, together with maps, diagrams, drawings, and all of the work accumulated throughout the programme.

The students contributed a tremendous amount of time and effort to this study. Parents were involved in transporting parties to hike locations and staff of the school spent much of their spare time laying out hikes and preparing assignments.

It was an ambitious project which benefited the students — who gathered information and facts on the Escarpment in their area and learned about their own

community — and everyone who participated in the programme.

The students were divided into working groups and each group presented its findings and recommendations to the Commission through a spokesperson. The recommendations of each group are as follows:

Flora and Fauna

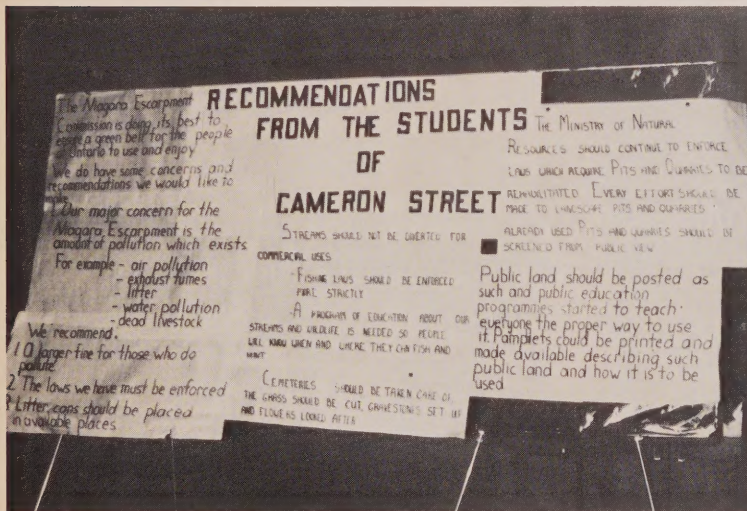
- (a) a larger fine for those who pollute
- (b) the laws we have must be enforced
- (c) litter cans should be placed in available places

Pits and Quarries

- (a) the Ministry of Natural Resources should continue to enforce the laws
- (b) every effort should be made to rehabilitate the pits and quarries
- (c) they should be landscaped
- (d) all pits should be screened from public view



Earl Gilroy, Principal of Cameron Street School, Ivor McMullin, Chairman of the Commission with students Bev McKee, Vivy Harris, Lori Williams, Paul Kloos and Steven Ryder.



The recommendations from the students which were presented to the Commission.

History

- (a) the cemeteries should be taken care of
- (b) the grass should be cut
- (c) the gravestones should be set up
- (d) the flowers should be looked after

Planning

- (a) public land should be posted as such
- (b) public education programmes should be started to teach everyone the proper way to use it.
- (c) pamphlets should be printed and made available, describing such public land and how it is to be used.

Pond and Stream

- (a) the streams, rivers and ponds not be diverted for commercial uses
- (b) fishing laws should be enforced more strictly
- (c) a programme of education about our streams and wildlife should be held, so people will know when and where to fish and hunt.

Identification of Scenic and Geological Sites on the Escarpment

Significant scenic and geological sites along the 465-mile Niagara Escarpment are being identified by a series of bronze plaques erected by the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Four plaques were unveiled in the fall of 1976.

Tobermory

The first unveiling ceremony was performed in September at Tobermory by Mrs. J.P. Johnstone, wife of the Reeve of St. Edmund's Township. Located on the south side of Tobermory harbour, this plaque identifies the Escarpment submergence into Georgian Bay. Inscription on the plaque reads: "This shoreline marks the northern extremity of the Niagara Escarpment in Southern Ontario. Stretching unbroken for 465 miles across Southern Ontario from Niagara Falls, the Escarpment was created by an erosion of layered sedimentary rocks deposited in ancient seas of the Paleozoic Era over 400 million years ago. Portions of the Escarpment form the islands between Tobermory and South Baymouth and the same Paleozoic Rocks shape the geology of Manitoulin Island."

Cataract

Mr. John Clarkson, Mayor of the Town of Caledon, unveiled the plaque at Cataract outlining the Credit River Gorge, and the two rock formations that can be clearly identified from the vantage point beside the plaque's location. Inscription on the plaque reads: "The rock face opposite displays an excellent contact between grey sandstone of the Whirlpool Formation and red shales of the underlying and older Queenston Formation. These layered sedimentary rocks were deposited in ancient seas of the Paleozoic Era, over 400 million years ago, and form part of the Niagara Escarpment. The significance of the shale-sandstone contact is that it represents the boundary, in Ontario, of two geologic time periods — the older Ordovician and younger Silurian."

Griersville

Mr. Maurice Brown, Reeve of St. Vincent Township, unveiled the third in the series. Erected on top of the Escarpment overlooking Meaford, the plaque describes Griersville Rock. The inscription reads: "Many areas along the Niagara Escarpment were subject to considerable modification by glaciation. Displayed here is an example of 'periglacial mass movement'. The large blocks of dolostone (below) were dislodged by freeze-thaw conditions at the glacier's edge and slid down to occupy a position in contrast to the primary rock face. Drier conditions following retreat of the ice mass have led to relative stabilization. A portion of the vast Bighead Valley drumlin field can be seen in the distance."

Kimberley

'Old Baldy' near Kimberley in the Beaver Valley is outlined on the fourth plaque which was unveiled by Mr. Harold McKnight, Reeve of Euphrasia Township. 'Old Baldy' is the local name for this Niagara Escarpment lookout from which a magnificent view of the Beaver Valley can be gained. The inscription reads: "This lookout, known locally as 'Old Baldy', forms a portion of the Niagara Escarpment, a landform with origins dating back over 400 million years to the Silurian Period. The Amabel dolostone composing this bluff began as lime-rich organic sediments in a shallow warm sea, later to be compacted into rock, uplifted and eroded to form the present Escarpment landscape. Initially carved by a preglacial river, the Beaver Valley was later scoured by glacial ice to produce the broad U-shaped valley that exists today."

The Commission will be unveiling additional plaques in 1977 to identify such places as the Niagara Gorge, Halfway Rock Point in Cyprus Lake Park, Devil's Punch Bowl, Limehouse Kilns, Mono Rocks, Indian Falls, Skinner Bluff, Welland Ship Canal and many other points throughout the Niagara Escarpment highlighting special points of interest to the public.



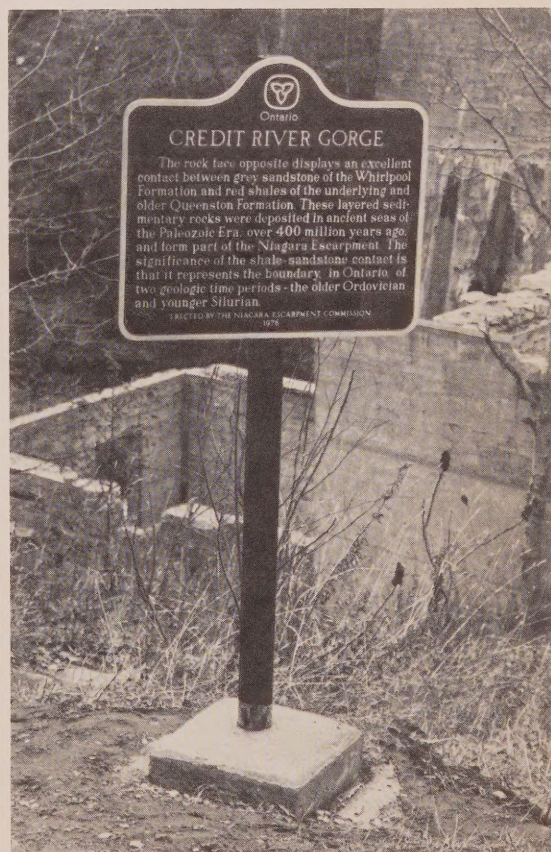
Mrs. J. P. Johnstone unveiling plaque at Tobermory.



Plaque at Kimberley with "Old Baldy" in background.



Mr. Maurice Brown, Reeve of St. Vincent Township, unveiling plaque at Griersville Rock. Looking on is Mr. Robert Mackey, commission member.



Plaque at Cataract with old mill in background.

Niagara Escarpment Commission Publication



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